

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 04666 291744Z

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TAGS: OEXC MO (MOHAMMED CHAHID)

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL VISITOR PROPOSAL, PARTIL GRANT FOR

EMBASSY HAS JUST LEARNED THAT MOHAMMED CHAHID, NEWS EDITOR OF LEADING FRENCH LANGUAGE OPPOSITION DAILY, L'OPINION, IS TRAVELLING TO NEW YORK TO COVER UN DEBATE ON SAHARA IN EARLY OCTOBER, AND PROPOSES OFFER HIM A PARTIAL GRANT AS DETAILED BELOW. CHAHID SHOULD HAVE A THREE WEEK STAY FOLLOWING UN DEBATE WHICH MAY BE CONCLUDED AS EARLY AS MID-OCTOBER. TRAVEL WOULD BE CONFINED TO EAST COAST, AND INCLUDE MEETINGS WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON. SUGGEST POSSIBILITY SOME PROGRAMMING NEW YORK DURING PERIOD OF SAHARA DISCUSSIONS.

IN ADDITION TO MEETING SENIOR OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON AND NEW YORK, HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE WASHINGTON POST OR STAR NEWS AND A SOLID SMALL OR MEDIUM-SIZED TOWN DAILY. HE WOULD LIKE HOSPITALITY WITH ENGLISH, FRENCH AND ARABIC SPEAKING FAMILIES, AND WOULD BE PLEASED TO MEET WITH MOROCCAN PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS RESIDENT IN COMMUNITIES HE VISITS. DOMESTIC POLITICAL ACTIVITY INTERESTS HIM AND THE POST SUGGESTS HE MEET REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC PARTY LEADERS AT NATIONAL LEVEL. ALSO INTERESTED IN LOCAL GOVERNMENT AT THE CITY AND STATE LEVEL.

CHAHID DOES NOT, RPT NOT, WANT TO VISIT SCIENTIFIC OR SPACE INSTALLATIONS. HE WOULD LIKE TO VISIT TV STUDIOS AND TO SEE SOME THEATRICAL PERFORMANCES AT THE KENNEDY AND LINCOLN CENTERS, AND IN OTHER CITIES, TIME PERMITTING.

CHAHID HAS A RESERVED BUT FRIENDLY MANNER, A PLEASANT PERSONALITY. HE DRESSES WELL AND SEEMS AT HOME IN REASONABLY SOPHISTICATED ENVIRONMENTS.

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PAGE 02 RABAT 04666 291744Z

ADDITIONAL BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION: CHAHID IS MARRIED AND HAS

FIVE CHILDREN. HE HAS NOT PUBLISHED ANY BOOKS, OR ARTICLES OUTSIDE L'OPINION. ON THE PROFESSIONAL LEVEL HE IS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN POLITICAL AFFAIRS, NOT ECONOMIC, AND IN JOURNALISM. ON THE PERSONAL LEVEL HE IS INTERESTED IN THE THEATER AND WOULD LIKE TO SEE SOME ASPECTS OF AMERICAN FOLKLORE. NO DIETARY RESTRICTIONS. CHAHID, THOUGH NOMINALLY NEWS EDITOR, IN FACT IS IN COMPLETE CHARGE OF PUTTING OUT THE PAPER UNDER POLITICAL EDITORS WHO ARE NOT PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS. L'OPINION IS THE ORGAN OF THE OPPOSITION ISTIQLAL (INDEPENDENCE) PARTY. CHAHID HAS WORKED FOR L'OPINION SINCE 1967 AFTER COMPLETING HIS STUDIES AT MOHAMMED V UNIVERSITY IN RABAT.

CHAHID WAS BORN IN MOROCCO IN 1943. MOROCCAN CITIZEN. HE HAS NEVER TRAVELED TO U.S. BUT TRAVELED WIDELY IN EUROPE, AFRICA AND THE MID-EAST, PROFESSIONALLY AND PRIVATELY.

N.A

CHAHID IS FLUENT IN FRENCH AND ARABIC BUT PREFERS FRENCH. HE DOES NOT SPEAK ENGLISH AND THE SERVICES OF A FULL TIME ESCORT INTERPRETER WOULD BE REQUIRED.

"TENTATIVELY CLEARED FOR VISA"

THE ISTIQLAL PARTY, AND THROUGH IT, L'OPINION, CAN BE CHARACTERIZED AS NATIONALIST, ISLAMIC-SOCIALIST AND PRO-PLO IS FREQUENTLY CRITICAL OF THE U.S., MOSTLY OVER THE MIDEAST QUESTION BUT ON THE ISSUES AS WELL.

CHAHID, NOT AN ISTIQLAL PARTY MEMBER, REGULARLY PUBLISHES SOME USIS MATERIAL. POST BELIEVES DIRECT EXPOSURE TO U.S. LIFE AND IDEAS WILL CORRECT MISCONCEPTIONS HE HAS ABOUT SOME ASPECTS OF THEMCOON

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